Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (Withdrawn):   An information processing apparatus for studying a target case by communicating information through a network, comprising:

first communications means for requesting from a first inspector to a second inspector to study the target case with first information attached; and

second communication means for transmitting second information not contained in said first information to said second inspector for study of said target case when a study request is issued by said first communications means.

Claim 2 (Withdrawn):   The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

third communication means for requesting from said second inspector to a third inspector to study said target case; and

fourth communications means for transmitting said second information to said third inspector.

Claim 3 (Withdrawn):   The information processing apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising:

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fifth communication means for transmitting to said second inspector third information used to allow said second inspector to access said second information when said fourth communications means transmits said second information to said third inspector.

Claim 4 (Withdrawn):   The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

detection means for detecting an owner of a right to request another inspector to study said target case.

Claim 5 (Withdrawn):   An information processing method for studying a target case by communicating information through a network, comprising:

first communications step of requesting from a first inspector to a second inspector to study the target case with first information attached; and

second communications step of transmitting second information not contained in said first information to said second inspector for study of said target case when a study request is issued by said first communications means.

Claim 6 (Withdrawn):   A program storage medium storing a program for performing an information processing method for studying a target case by communicating information through a network, comprising:

a code for performing a first communications step of requesting from a first inspector to a second inspector to study the target case with first information attached; and

a code for performing a second communications step of transmitting second information not contained in said first information to said second inspector for study of said target case when a study request is issued by said first communications means.

Claim 7 (Withdrawn):   An information processing apparatus for fetching facsimile data received through a line into a database, comprising:

reception means for receiving the facsimile data; and

retrieval means for retrieving a specified item in the database from said facsimile data.

Claim 8 (Withdrawn):   The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

said facsimile data contains identification information about a specified item stored in said database.

Claim 9 (Withdrawn):   The information processing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said facsimile data further contains due date information about a specified item stored in said database.

Claim 10 (Withdrawn):   The information processing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said facsimile data further contains attached document information about a specified item stored in said database.

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Claim 11 (Withdrawn): The information processing apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said attached document information refers to a name of a document received from Patent Office and/or a name of a cited document.

Claim 12 (Withdrawn): The information processing apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising management means for receiving said facsimile data, and automatically generating a work flow in a network according to information contained in the facsimile data.

Claim 13 (Withdrawn): The information processing apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said work flow contains due date management and mail transmission.

Claim 14 (Withdrawn): The information processing method for fetching facsimile data received through a line into a database, comprising the steps of:

receiving facsimile data; and

retrieving a specified item in a database from said facsimile data.

Claim 15 (Withdrawn): The program storage medium storing a program for realizing an information processing method for fetching facsimile data received through a line into a database, comprising:

a code for realizing a receiving step of receiving facsimile data; and

a code for realizing a retrieving step of retrieving a specified item in a database from said facsimile data.

Claim 16 (Currently amended): An information processing apparatus for processing ~~document data by communicating information~~ electrical data sent from Patent Office, the electrical data including a first portion relating to a document issued at Patent Office and a second portion relating to an application number of the document, comprising:

first storage means for storing a ~~transmission/~~ reception record of ~~a~~ the document ~~transmitted to or~~ received from Patent Office;

second storage means for storing document data of said document;

acquisition means for acquiring ~~an~~ the application number from the ~~transmission/~~ reception record stored in said first storage means or the document data stored in said second storage means;

a table storing data showing correspondence between ~~an~~ the application number and an applicant; ~~and~~

extraction means for extracting, for a plurality of different applicants, document data of ~~a~~ the document stored in said second storage means and related to said application number by referring to said table using the application number obtained by said acquisition means as a key; and

third storage means for storing the extracted document data in relation to bibliographic data corresponding to the application number and the applicant.

Claim 17 (Original): The information processing apparatus according to claim 16, further comprising holding means for holding the document data extracted by said extraction means in a holder for each applicant.

Claim 18 (Original): The information processing apparatus according to claim 17, further comprising transmission means for transmitting the document data held in said holder to a corresponding applicant.

Claim 19 (Original): The information processing apparatus according to claim 17, further comprising printing means for printing the document data held by said holder by applicant.

Claim 20 (Original): The information processing apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said data stored in said table indicates an applicant of an application corresponding to said application number.

Claim 21 (Currently amended): An information processing method for processing document data by communicating information electrical data sent from Patent Office, the electrical data including a first portion relating to a document issued at Patent Office and a second portion relating to an application number of the document, comprising the steps of:

storing a transmission/ reception record of a the document transmitted to or received from the Patent Office in first storage means;

storing the document data of said document in second storage means;

acquiring an the application number from the transmission/ reception record stored in said first storage means or the document data stored in said second storage means; and

extracting, for a plurality of different applicants, document data of a the document stored in said second storage means and related to said application number by referring to a

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table storing data showing correspondence between ~~an~~ the application number and an applicant name using the application number as a key; and

storing the extracted document data in relation to bibliographic data corresponding to the application number and the applicant.

Claim 22 (Currently amended):   A program storage medium storing a program for realizing an information processing method for processing ~~document data by communicating information~~ electrical data sent from Patent Office, the electrical data including a first portion relating to a document issued at Patent Office and a second portion relating to an application number of the document, comprising the steps of:

a code for realizing a storing step of storing a ~~transmission/~~ reception record of ~~a~~ the document ~~transmitted to or~~ received from Patent Office in first storage means;

a code for realizing a storing step of storing the document data of said document in second storage means;

a code for realizing an acquiring step of acquiring ~~an~~ the application number from the ~~transmission/~~ reception record stored in said first storage means or the document data stored in said second storage means; ~~and~~

a code for realizing an extracting step of extracting, for a plurality of different applicants, document data of ~~a~~ the document stored in said second storage means and related to said application number by referring to a table storing data showing correspondence between ~~an~~ the application number and an applicant name using said application number as a key; and

storing the extracted document data in relation to bibliographic data corresponding to the application number and the applicant.

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Claim 23 (Currently amended):　An information processing apparatus for managing a document related to technical information, comprising:

first determination means for determining ~~a rule of a law relating to overseas transmission of said technical information~~ whether overseas transmission of said technical information is restricted based on whether a predetermined period has passed from filing; ~~and~~

second determination means for determining whether overseas transmission of said technical information is restricted based on whether a predetermined permission has been obtained; and

control means for controlling overseas transmission of said document depending on a determination result by said determination means.

Claim 24 (Original):　The information processing apparatus according to claim 23, wherein said document relates to a document about a patent application, and is transmitted as electronic data.

Claim 25 (Original):　The information processing apparatus according to claim 24, wherein said determination means determines the rule based on a filing date of said patent application.

Claim 26 (Original):　The information processing apparatus according to claim 24, wherein said determination means determines the rule based on a flag stored in a server for managing said document.

Claim 27 (Original): The information processing apparatus according to claim 26, wherein said flag indicates whether or not a license has been acquired.

Claim 28 (Original): The information processing apparatus according to claim 23, wherein said control means transmits said document overseas through a network.

Claim 29 (Currently amended): An information processing method for managing a document related to technical information, comprising the steps of:

first determining step of determining a rule of a law relating to overseas transmission of said technical information whether overseas transmission of said technical information is restricted based on whether a predetermined period has passed from filing; and

second determining step of determining whether overseas transmission of said technical information is restricted based on whether a predetermined permission has been obtained; and

controlling overseas transmission of said document depending on a determination result obtained in said determining step.

Claim 30 (Currently amended): A program storage medium storing a program for realizing an information processing method for managing a document related to technical information, comprising the steps of:

a code for realizing a first determining step of determining a rule of a law relating to overseas transmission of the technical information whether overseas transmission of said

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technical information is restricted based on whether a predetermined period has passed from filing; ~~and~~

a code for performing a second determination step of determining whether overseas transmission of said technical information is restricted based on whether a predetermined permission has been obtained; and

a code for performing a controlling step of controlling overseas transmission of said document depending on a determination result obtained in said determining step.